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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 142845

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TAGS: [BL](#) [BR](#) [EC](#) [PA](#) [UNGA](#)

SUBJECT: WHA A/S SHANNON,S SEPTEMBER 27, 2007 MEETING WITH  
BRAZILIAN U/S FOR SOUTH AMERICA JORGE D'ESCRAGOLLE TAUNAY

Classified By: WHA Assistant Secretary of State  
Thomas A. Shannon,  
Department of State, Reason 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (U) September 27, 2007, 5:00 p.m., New York

[1](#)2. (U) Participants:

United States  
A/S Thomas A. Shannon  
Scott Miller, WHA Notetaker

Brazil  
U/S for South America Jorge D'Escragolle Taunay  
Christian Siqueiroa, second secretary, Brazilian Mission to  
the U.N.  
Wilson Dockhorn, second secretary and assistant to the U/S

[1](#)3. (C) SUMMARY. A/S Shannon and Brazilian U/S Taunay  
discussed developments in Bolivia, impressions of the Correa  
administration in Ecuador, and the presidential elections in  
Paraguay in a short meeting on the margins of the UNGA. END  
SUMMARY.

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Bolivia  
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[1](#)4. (C) Shannon said that the United States has been quite  
active and mostly successful in South America, but noted that  
the United States' relationship with Bolivia is becoming more  
problematic. Shannon cited several small incidents as well  
as the comments by Bolivian officials to DAS MacMullen that  
Bolivia has made a decision to distance itself from the  
United States. He also expressed disappointment that Brazil  
and the United States have offered Bolivia the ability to  
enhance productive capacity and access to markets, only to  
see Bolivia turn to Cuba and Venezuela.

[1](#)5. (C) Taunay encouraged the United States to be mindful that  
Bolivia has been in a crisis since the beginning of the  
Morales administration and that by several criteria the  
country is experiencing a revolution.

[1](#)6. (C) Taunay added that everything is "very political" at  
the moment in Bolivia; relationships can be largely shaped by  
the interlocutor and often change from day to day. Taunay  
attributed the mixed signals emanating from Bolivia in part  
to lack of coordination and said he "would not worry too  
much." He added that Pablo Salon, who chairs South American  
integration meetings, is a moderate with whom the Brazilians  
have found they can talk.

[1](#)7. (C) As for the constituent assembly in Bolivia, Taunay

pointed out that it reflects the deep divisions within Bolivia and pointed out that the "media luna" will only accept so much radicalization. Shannon noted that the "media luna" has leaders who are prepared to fight and agreed with Taunay that an outbreak of violence would be awful.

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Ecuador  
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¶18. (C) A/S Shannon noted that Correa may face a more daunting challenge than Morales, given his lack of congressional representatives. He indicated that the United States is working to keep Ecuador close, but that this will be complicated by Correa's decision not to renew the Manta airbase lease.

¶19. (C) Taunay acknowledged that he has a better impression of Correa than most and finds him to be a good economist one can reason with. Taunay added that while Correa is nationalistic, he is not a radical, but closer to a moderate.

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Paraguay  
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¶10. (C) Taunay said the 2008 presidential elections in Paraguay are difficult to predict, particularly with the involvement of former army chief Lino Oviedo. Ultimately, Taunay thought that with the Colorado party's strong base, President Duarte will be able to pave a path for his

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successor. A/S Shannon cautioned that Duarte is playing a dangerous game with Oviedo and said he noted ambition but lack of concrete proposals in his meeting with candidate Fernando Lugo.

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